


LAKE DISTRICT OFFICE

Oakland Town Hall
N4450 County Rd. A
Cambridge, WI 53523

(608) 423-4537
ripley@oaklandtown.com
www.lakeripley.org

 @LRMDLS2020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jimmy DeGidio
Chair
(608) 921-1340

Debbie Kutz
Treasurer
(920) 650-9122

Georgia Gómez-Ibáñez
Secretary
(608) 423-9898

Craig Kempel
Commissioner
(608) 423-3605

Keith Kolb
Commissioner
(414) 659-6293

Doug Maurer
Commissioner
(608) 515-3976

Walt Christensen
Jefferson County Rep.
(920) 723-1320

LAKE MANAGER

Lianna Spencer
ripley@oaklandtown.com
(608) 423-4537

WEED HARVESTER CREW

Ed Grunden
Richard Moen
Dennis Zick
Bruce Crump

FROM THE HELM



My evening cruise around Lake Ripley on 8/2/2021.

This summer I have been taking some evening boat rides around Lake Ripley; something I haven't done much of, as of late. The calm on the lake after 7:30pm is something everyone should experience a few times each summer. To my surprise, I'm usually the only boat on the lake after the Slow-No-Wake rule goes into effect. The sunsets are

truly amazing, and the shoreline lights from the resident's homes illuminates the water's edge in the most spectacular way. As I watch the sun start to fade below the west sky, I begin to hear the male bullfrogs start to make their deep bellows to attract their mate and establish their territory; their calls carry across the lake. I am able to see the pair of bald eagles dive into the water for fish. In the east bay, I watch the deer with their spotted fawns come to the water's edge and drink from the lake. As the light continues to fade, the haze from the wildfires out West begins to cloud the upper sky. On a good night I will watch the moon rise high in the sky, reflecting its light onto the smooth surface of the water. I can begin to hear small fish feeding on top of the water while larger ones are jumping and rolling on the surface. The geese also seem to enjoy the night as they are flocked together in Marina Bay. I don't hear the normal boat motors running and very few cars driving down Ripley Road. There are virtually no human sounds anywhere. It reminds me of being in northern Wisconsin on Scott Lake, a lake similar in size to Ripley. It's true peace on the water at this time of the night. As I'm drifting in front of the Hoard & Curtis Scout Camp, I start to reflect on how Lake Ripley is able to share so many wonderful different aspects of nature all at once. Fishing, kayaking, waterskiing and night cruises, I appreciate everything the lake is able to give us and I hope you can break away from the normal routine of staying in at sunset and take a few hours to get on the water to experience these beautiful evenings before winter comes once again. I hope these sunsets make you smile like they make me. Have a wonderful rest of your summer.

Jimmy DeGidio, Chair

FROGS AND TOADS? TOAD-ALLY COOL!

The District participated in the Wisconsin Frog and Toad Survey this year. Trained volunteers from all over the state monitor anuran populations through calling surveys. Each route consists of 10 different listening stations within hearing distance of anuran breeding habitats such as ephemeral ponds, lakes, marshes, and wooded swamps. This survey not only assesses the health of local anuran populations, but vicariously the quality of their habitats. Wet habitats have been in decline in Wisconsin. Recent efforts to protect wet habitats help not only anurans but increase these areas' ability to absorb flood waters in large rain events.

We completed three different surveys throughout the season and heard lots of singing anurans! Our surveys had to start after sunset, with wind speeds that were less than 8mph and preferably high humidity. At each station, we listened for 5 minutes and recorded a call index value for each anuran species that we heard calling. This year, we heard eight different species within the Lake Ripley watershed!

My favorite frog is the Northern Leopard Frog; they can grow to be 2-3.5 inches long, and they have beautiful dark oval spots, each of which is surrounded by a lighter halo. This frog is a species



An adult Leopard Frog. Photo courtesy of: National Geographic.

of special concern; their species is still common, but significantly declining. We only heard one individual this season, but when this frog let out its call, I was delighted! Their calls sound like a deep, rattling, broken "snore" interspersed with "chuckling". It also resembles the sound of a thumb rubbing against a balloon.

The anuran species we heard this season were spring peepers, a northern leopard frog, American toads, gray treefrogs, Cope's gray treefrogs, green frogs, and American bullfrogs. This time of the year you can still hear the American bullfrogs calling. Keep your ear out for their bass voices!

A LOVELY LITTLE LAKE

Looking out over our lake on a pleasant summer morning, with barely a ripple on its smooth surface, it might be easy to imagine the lake as self-contained within its shoreline. Nothing could be further from the truth! Water is always on the move.

Sure, we know there's an inlet creek delivering water from the surrounding watershed, supplying about 70% of our lake's water. And yes, we know our outlet creek sends water to Koshkonong Creek, Rock River, the Mississippi, and eventually the ocean. Water is coming and going all the time. Perhaps we recognize this most clearly when we watch thunderheads piling up and the lake disappears behind slanting curtains of rain. Even then we probably aren't thinking about how our lake is part of the huge dynamic system of the water cycle! We're just grateful for the rain. But the truth is, our lake is very connected to all the waters of Earth. All the water that's ever been

is still right here on Earth, moving around in a continuous cycling and recycling. And it's not just precipitation and evaporation! Plants contribute water vapor as well as oxygen to our air when they are photosynthesizing. A big Oak pumps 40,000 gallons of water into the air each year! That water will eventually fall as rain on someone's cornfield, or garden, or some small inlet creek meandering to a small lake, somewhere. Groundwater is another important source of replenishment for our lake, supplying about 30% of the lake's water. (Groundwater supplies our wells, too).

Of all the water of Earth, about 96% is salt water. About 1% is actively moving in our atmosphere. Only about 3% is freshwater, and of that, three-fourths is locked up in ice. Only one-fourth is accessible to us in surface waters, such as lakes and rivers, and groundwater.

How precious to us, our lovely little lake!

MAKING YOUR DITCH LAKE-FRIENDLY

Have you driven down Ripley Road lately and noticed the beautiful flowers and plants that are growing (and currently blooming!) in some roadside ditches? I certainly have! I noticed the beautiful, blooming hibiscus plants and decided I needed to get the scoop. As it turns out, the idea for planting hibiscus plants along Ripley Road came from a Jamaica native, Dennis. Dennis and his wife, Mary, have been growing hibiscus plants from seeds for the last 15 years! He said it reminds him of his home in Jamaica, while also helping to protect our beautiful Lake Ripley.

The plants within these ditches along Ripley Road aren't just beautiful to look at, they are also benefitting the lake in a major way! Every time any rain event takes place, the water flows downhill towards the lake and without these plants the water would not be able to recharge properly. The plants infiltrate the water, which filters out the nutrients before entering our lake.

Hibiscus plants are a great species to plant in these ditches; they are related to marsh mallows, which are native wetland plants that are adapted to soak up and filter water. Dennis and Mary have planted over 40 hibiscus plants in their ditch! Native cattails have also found this ditch a good place to call home.

Dennis's neighbor, Ted Swanson, saw how these plants were benefitting the lake and decided to get in on the action. Dennis gave Ted over 40 hibiscus plants to plant in his ditch, and Ted also has lilies and hostas mixed in with his plantings for some diversity. All of these plants help protect Lake Ripley's water quality and therefore, the ecology of our lake. And it's not just these two lake-loving residents that are converting their ditches into something more lake-friendly. I've noticed other homeowners that have beautiful wildflowers and wetland species growing magnificently in their ditches this season! Hopefully, this article can inspire others to convert their ditch to help protect our wonderful lake!



Dennis and his grandson, Gunner, in front of his hibiscus plants.



Our chairman, Jimmy DeGidio, with homeowner Ted Swanson. Ted has also transformed his ditch!



Dennis has grown many different varieties. Pink, white and maroon were just a few that I saw!

A beautiful pink flower from one of Ted's hibiscus plants.



A white hibiscus flower in bloom.





Lake Ripley Management District
Budget Hearing
August 21, 2021
9 a.m. at Oakland Town Hall

Annual Meeting
Immediately following budget hearing
Oakland Town Hall

- I. Call to Order
 - II. Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes
 - III. Nomination of Board candidates, Statements of candidates, and Election - one open position
 - IV. (Name(s) on Ballot: Georgia Gomez-Ibanez)
 - V. Chairman's report
 - VI. Treasurer's report
 - VII. Discussion and possible action on other business that can be legally considered by the District
 - VIII. Approval of the budget and tax levy
 - IX. Tabulation of vote and election of board members
 - X. Adjournment
-

Meeting of the Board of Directors
Immediately following Annual Meeting
Oakland Town Hall

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Election of Board Officers
- III. Adjournment

Note: Public Comment will be taken at discretion of District Chair

LAKE RIPLEY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
2022 PROPOSED BUDGET

	<u>2020 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2021 BUDGET</u>	<u>2021 JAN-JUNE ACTUAL</u>	<u>2021 JAN-DEC ESTIMATED</u>	<u>2022 BUDGET</u>
Revenues:					
Real Estate Tax Levy	122,715	152,665	84,360	152,665	159,588
Interest Income	591	324	460	313	324
Carryover	37,531	17,903		19,214	16,970
Total Revenues	<u><u>160,837</u></u>	<u><u>170,892</u></u>	<u><u>84,793</u></u>	<u><u>172,192</u></u>	<u><u>176,882</u></u>
Operations:					
Landowner Cost Sharing	779	15,000	721	-	12,500
Weed Harvesting	10,484	10,800	1,742	11,000	13,400
Preserve Restoration/Management	5,292	9,000	1,482	9,000	10,000
Staff Payroll/Fringes/Taxes	67,791	73,542	32,470	73,722	81,482
Insurance	7,182	7,500	6,996	7,500	8,000
Legal & Accounting	2,284	3,000	630	2,000	3,500
Dues & Conferences	1,553	4,000	1,198	1,500	2,500
Office & Community Outreach	11,026	11,600	6,173	11,800	11,800
Commissioner Stipends	5,450	5,400	2,600	5,400	5,400
Rent	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
Capital Reserve, Land/Equip Acquisition	20,798	25,000	11,868	25,000	22,500
Miscellaneous & General Lake Mgmt.	2,835	3,750	165	6,000	3,500
Special Programs	174	500	100	500	500
Total Disbursements	<u><u>137,448</u></u>	<u><u>170,892</u></u>	<u><u>67,945</u></u>	<u><u>155,222</u></u>	<u><u>176,882</u></u>
Balance	<u><u>23,389</u></u>			<u><u>16,970</u></u>	

THE LRMD HAS NO INDEBTEDNESS

**LAKE RIPLEY
PROTECTION
FUND**

Restricted Fund:

Estimated Balance (12/31/20)	\$113,665
Additional 2020 Activity Increase	738
Final Balance 12/31/20	114,403
2021 Estimated Activity Interest Earned	116
Decrease	5,140
Estimated Balance 12/31/21	\$109,379

Anyone wishing to see a detailed budget may come to the District office at the Oakland Town Hall, N4450 Cty Hwy A, Cambridge, during normal business hours. Phone ahead to make sure office is open at 608-423-4537.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

A public input session will be held on October 19th at 4:00pm at the Oakland Town Hall to discuss the updated 10-year Lake Management Plan and the 10-year Preserve Management Plan. A draft will be available online. Public comments will be appreciated.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Lake Ripley Management District will host their annual meeting on August 18th, at 9:00AM at the Oakland Town Hall (N4450 County Road A, Cambridge).

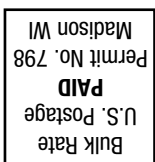
LEASH UP!

Please make sure you are keeping your dogs on a leash while in our Preserve! Our ground-nesting birds depend on it! These song sparrow nestlings (among many others!!) are all the reasons you need.



Be sure to visit, to LIKE and FOLLOW our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/LRMDLS2020

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Ripples
Lake Ripley Management District
N4450 County Rd. A
Cambridge, WI 53523